

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
 - a first lever having first and second ends;
 - a second lever having first and second ends;
 - first means for pivotally fastening said first and second levers to one another;
 - a first jaw which is fixed to said first means;
 - a second jaw ~~which is movable and has~~ having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;
 - second means for pivotally fastening said second jaw to said first jaw, said blade portion of said second jaw being adapted to be placed about the workpiece and moved toward said first jaw to envelope the workpiece between said first and second jaws;
 - a first member being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth;
 - means for attaching said first member to said first means, said first member being capable of moving relative to said first means;
 - a second member adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said second member being pivotally connected to said first means; and
 - a third member adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said third member being pivotally connected to said first means.
2. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 1, wherein said first means includes a first ~~member~~ component fastened to said first lever and a second ~~member~~ component fastened to said second lever.

3. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said first jaw is connected to said second ~~member~~ component of said first means.
4. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said attaching means fastens said first ~~pawl~~ member to said first ~~member~~ component of said first means.
5. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 4, wherein said first ~~member~~ component of said first means includes a slot and said attaching means includes a pin slidably mounted in said slot and a normally expanded spring which biases said first member toward said plurality of teeth.
6. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 2, said second member is pivotally attached to said first ~~member~~ component of said first means.
7. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 2, wherein said third member is pivotally attached to said second ~~member~~ component of said first means.
8. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 7, wherein said third member is pivotally attached to said second ~~member~~ component of said first means by a pin and a torsion spring.
9. (Original) A tool as defined in claim 1, further including means for automatically returning said second jaw from a closed position to an open position.

10. (Original) A tool as defined in claim 9, wherein said second member includes a first indent and a second indent; and

wherein said automatically returning means includes:

a pair of stops provided on said second jaw,

a member having a first end and a second end, said first end being attached to said second means, said member being capable of abutting against said stops,

a normally expanded spring attached to said member,

a pin attached to said normally expanded spring and selectively engageable with one of said first indent of said second member and said second indent of said second member, and

a normally contracted spring attached to said second jaw and said first jaw.

11. (Currently amended) A tool as defined in claim 9, wherein said automatically returning means includes means to disengage said ~~first~~ second member from said plurality of teeth and a normally contracted spring attached to said second jaw and said first jaw.

12. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
- a pair of handles;
 - a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
 - a second jaw which is ~~movable and is~~ pivotally mounted to said first jaw, said second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;

first means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other; and

second means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said second means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said second means includes a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said pawl being biased toward said plurality of teeth, said pawl ~~has~~ having a base portion and a pair of extending portions which extend from opposite ends of said base portion and from a first end of said base portion to a second end of said base portion, a height of said extending portions proximate to said second end of said base portion is smaller than a height of said extending portions proximate to said first end of said base portion, each of said extending portions further having an aperture therethrough proximate to said first end of said base portion.

13. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

a pair of handles;

a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;

a second jaw which is pivotally mounted to said first jaw, said second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;

first means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other, said first means includes a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl of said first means having teeth thereon which are adapted to mesh with said plurality of teeth of said ~~movable~~ second jaw, said pawl of said first means is a block having three corners and three sides with one of said corners being rounded, said pawl of said first means has an aperture therethrough proximate to said rounded corner, said side which is opposite said rounded corner has said teeth thereon proximate to one of said other corners, said pawl of said first means further having a pair of indents therein next to said teeth on said side which is opposite said rounded corner; and

second means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said second means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said second means includes a pawl operatively associated with said handles, said pawl of said second means being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl of said second means being biased toward said plurality of teeth of said second jaw.

14. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
a pair of handles;
a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
a second jaw which is pivotally mounted to said first jaw, said second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof;

first means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other, said first means includes a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl of said first means having teeth thereon which are adapted to mesh with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw; and

second means for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said second means advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more tooth spaces than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with the workpiece, said second means includes a pawl operatively associated with said handles, said pawl of said second means being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl of said second means being biased toward said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl of said second means ~~has~~ having a base portion and a pair of extending portions which extend from opposite ends of said base portion and from a first end of said base portion to a second end of said base portion, a height of said extending portions proximate to said second end of said base portion is smaller than a height of said extending portions proximate to said first end of said base portion, each of said extending portions further having an aperture therethrough proximate to said first end of said base portion.

15. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
a pair of handles;
a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
a second jaw ~~which is movable and has~~ having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth along an outer edge thereof, said second jaw being pivotally mounted to said first jaw;

means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position, said advancing means including first and second members for selectively engaging said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said first member advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by a predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved toward each other, said second member advancing said second jaw toward said first jaw by more than said predetermined number of tooth spaces each time said handles are moved away from each other until said second jaw meets resistance with said workpiece; and

means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Original) A tool as defined in claim 15, wherein said first member is a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl having teeth thereon which are adapted to mesh with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw.

18. (Original) A tool as defined in claim 15, wherein said second member is a pawl operatively associated with one of said handles, said pawl being adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth of said second jaw, said pawl being biased toward said plurality of teeth.

19. (Original) A tool as defined in claim 15, wherein said first member further has a first indent and a second indent; and

wherein said automatically returning means includes:

a pair of stops provided on said second jaw,

a member having a first end and a second end, said first end being pivotally mounted to said second jaw, said member being capable of abutting against said stops,

a normally expanded spring attached to said member,

a pin attached to said normally expanded spring and selectively engageable with one of said first indent of said first member and said second indent of said first member, and

a normally contracted spring attached to said second jaw and said first jaw.

20. (Currently amended) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

a first lever having first and second ends, said first lever having a handle portion at said first end thereof;

a first member having first and second ends and a middle portion, said middle portion of said first member having a slot therethrough, said second end of said first lever being fixedly connected to said middle portion of said first member;

a second member having first and second ends, said second end of said second member being connected to said second end of said first member;

a third member having first and second ends, said second end of said third member being connected to said second end of said first member;

a second lever having first and second ends, said first lever having a handle portion at said first end thereof, said second end of said second lever being fixedly connected to said first end of said third member;

a first jaw which is fixed to one of said levers and has a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said first jaw being connected to said second end of said second member;

a second jaw ~~which is movable and has~~ having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof and a plurality of teeth formed along an outer edge thereof, said second jaw being pivotally connected to said first jaw;

a fourth member having first and second ends, said first end of said fourth member being connected to said second end of said third member;

a first pawl adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said first pawl being slidably connected to said first member within said slot of said member;

a first normally expanded spring positioned between said first lever and said first

member, said first normally expanded spring abutting against said first pawl such that said first pawl is biased toward said plurality of teeth;

a second pawl having teeth thereon which are adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said second pawl having a first indent and a second indent provided therein, said second pawl being connected to said second end of said first member;

a third pawl having teeth thereon which are adapted to engage with said plurality of teeth, said third pawl being connected to said first jaw;

a torsion spring positioned between said third pawl and said first jaw, said second end of said third member and said third pawl being connected to said torsion spring;

a fifth member having first and second ends, said first end of said fifth member being connected to said second end of said first member, said second end of said fifth member being connected to said second end of said fourth member;

a sixth member having first and second ends, said first end of said sixth member being connected to said second end of said first member, said second end of said sixth member being connected to said first jaw;

a normally contracted spring positioned between said first jaw and said second jaw;

a reversing member having first and second ends, said second end of said reversing member being connected to said second end of said fifth member and to said second jaw;

a second normally expanded spring positioned between said reversing member and said second jaw;

a pin attached to said second normally expanded spring, said pin being selectively engageable with one of said first indent of said second pawl and said second indent of said second pawl; and

first and second stops connected to said second jaw.

21. (Currently amended) A method of automatically returning a first, movable jaw of a tool from a closed position to an open position, said method comprising the steps of:

- a) providing said tool having a pair of handles, said tool having a second jaw which is fixed to one of said handles, said first jaw being pivotally mounted to said second jaw, a first member engageable with said first jaw and having a first indent and a second indent, a pair of stops provided on said first jaw, a second member having a first end and a second end, said first end being pivotally mounted to said first jaw, a normally expanded spring attached to said second member, a pin attached to said normally expanded spring and selectively engageable with one of said first indent of said first member and said second indent of said first member, and a normally contracted spring attached to said first jaw and said second jaw;
- b) positioning said first jaw to said closed position such that said normally contracted spring is expanded, said pin is engaged with said first indent of said first member, and said second member ~~abutting~~ abuts against one of said stops provided on said first jaw;
- c) pushing said second member against said one of said stops;
- d) forcing said pin from said first indent to said second indent;
- e) contracting said normally contracting spring;
- f) moving said first jaw from said closed position to said open position; and
- g) forcing said pin from said second indent to said first indent.

22. (New) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:

- a pair of handles;
- a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
- a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said second jaw being pivotally mounted to said first jaw;
- means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position; and
- means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position, said advancing means being positioned within said tool such that said advancing means is protected by other portions of said tool.

23. (New) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
a pair of handles;
a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said second jaw being pivotally mounted to said first jaw;

means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position; and

means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position, said automatically returning means including a spring-loaded pin which is configured to be constantly engaged with said advancing means in either a first position or a second position, wherein when said spring-loaded pin is in said first position, said advancing means is configured to advance said second jaw from said open position to said closed position, and wherein when said spring-loaded pin is in said second position, said advancing means is configured to allow said automatically returning means to return said second jaw from said closed position to said open position.

24. (New) A tool as defined in claim 23, wherein said advancing means includes a pawl having a first indent and a second indent, and wherein said first position of said spring-loaded pin is within said first indent of said pawl, and wherein said second position of said spring-loaded pin is within said second indent of said pawl.

25. (New) A tool for cutting or crimping a workpiece comprising:
- a pair of handles;
 - a first jaw which is fixed to one of said handles;
 - a second jaw having a blade portion formed along an inner edge thereof, said second jaw being pivotally mounted to said first jaw;
 - means for advancing said second jaw from an open position to a closed position wherein said blade portion of said second jaw is distal to said first jaw in said open position and is proximate to said first jaw in said closed position; and
 - a member configured to allow said second jaw to move from said closed position to said open position when said member is in contact with one of said handles, said member further being configured to prevent said second jaw from moving from said closed position to said open position when said member is not in contact with said one of said handles.
26. (New) A tool as defined in claim 25, further comprising means for automatically returning said second jaw from said closed position to said open position when said member is in contact with said one of said handles.